

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-52 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 8, 15, 20, 23, and 28 being independent.

Claims 1-52 have been amended. Applicants submit that support for the amendments can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the clarification made during the telephonic interview of March 2, 2005 regarding the rejection of Claim 48. In particular, Applicants' representative inquired about the basis for the rejection of that claim, because it was not specifically addressed in the Office Action. The Examiner advised that Claim 48 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for the same reasons as Claim 47 from which it depends.

Also, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that Claims 15, 17, 19-23, 25, 27-30, 34, 38, 42, 46, and 49 are allowed, and that Claims 1-14, 16, 18, 24, 26, 33, 37, 41, 45, 47, and 50 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under Section 112, second paragraph, discussed below.

The Abstract has been amended to remove the extraneous title and reference to Figure 9. Favorable consideration and withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract are requested.

Claims 31, 32, 35, 36, 39, 40, 43, and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, because they recited only a single means for performing a recited function.

Applicants have amended those claims to avoid a single means format. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of those claims, are respectfully requested.

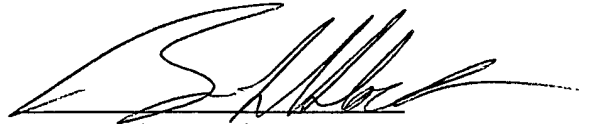
Claims 1-14, 16, 18, 24, 26, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 50, and 51 (as well as Claim 48) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph, for the reasons specified at page 3 of the Office Action. Applicants have amended those claims in view of the Examiner's comments and submit that the amendments overcome the Examiner's objections. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are requested.

Claims 51 and 52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed computer program is not recited to be stored in a physical object, such as a computer readable storage medium. In response, Applicants have amended those claims to recite that the computer program product is embodied in a computer readable medium for instructing a computer to perform sequences of instructions. Applicants submit that these amendments overcome the Examiner's objections to Claims 51 and 52, and therefore Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 101 rejection.

In view of the foregoing, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the outstanding objection and rejections, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 721-5427. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. L. Klock', written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicants
Brian L. Klock
Registration No. 36,570

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
BLK/lmj

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